



# **2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**2006 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR  
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**TENNESSEE ETHICS COMMISSION**



**Tennessee Ethics Commission  
SunTrust Bank Building  
201 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Suite 1820  
Nashville, TN 37243  
(615) 253-8634  
<http://state.tn.us/sos/tec/>**

## **FOREWORD**

The 2006 Extraordinary Session of the Tennessee General Assembly enacted in the Comprehensive Governmental Ethics Reform Act of 2006 (“Act”). The Act addressed, among other items, financial disclosure and other reporting requirements for lobbyists, employers of lobbyists, Legislators, State and local elected officials, and candidates and appointees to such positions. Further, the Act prohibited activities such as certain campaign contributions and the offer and acceptance of certain gifts. The Act established an independent Tennessee Ethics Commission (“Commission”) to interpret and enforce the provisions of the Act.

The Act was passed to advance the public’s confidence in government by enhancing the integrity and transparency of state and local government. Under the Act, the Commission is required to deliver an Annual Report to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the public. This 2006 Annual Report details the progress of the Commission in the few months since its legal existence began on October 1, 2006, and describes the expectations for the Commission for the remainder of 2007. As evidenced by this 2006 Annual Report, much has been accomplished in the Commission’s short existence, and the Commission intends to continue in its efforts in the upcoming year.

We, the Commissioners of the Tennessee Ethics Commission, look forward to working with the Governor, the General Assembly, State and local elected officials, lobbyists and their employers, and the public in carrying out the mandates of the Act.

Thomas J. Garland, Chair  
R. Larry Brown  
Donald J. Hall  
Linda Whitlow Knight  
Dianne Ferrell Neal  
Benjamin S. Purser, Jr.

February 1, 2007

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## **BACKGROUND OF THE ETHICS REFORM ACT**

On December 12, 2005, Governor Phil Bredesen issued a proclamation officially calling the General Assembly into a Special Session to consider and act upon legislation relating to ethics in government. The Governor stated that:

The events of this past year, while difficult for all, have brought us to a moment of unprecedented opportunity for change. We must all work together to seize this moment by approving strong ethics legislation designed to change the culture in government and once again restore Tennesseans' confidence in their elected representatives.

Governor Bredesen called the Special Session to focus the attention, will and efforts of the Legislative and Executive Branches of government upon the passage of strong ethics legislation prior to consideration of other matters during the Regular Session. The announcement of a Special Session came several months after the Governor's Citizen Advisory Group on Ethics in Government completed an in-depth review of the issue of ethics in Tennessee and presented Governor Bredesen its final recommendations.

During the same time period, the General Assembly's Special Joint Committee on Ethics, incorporating recommendations from the Governor's Advisory Group, began drafting comprehensive ethics reform legislation.

All of these efforts resulted in enactment of the Comprehensive Governmental Ethics Reform Act of 2006, which was signed by Governor Bredesen on February 15, 2006.

## **THE TENNESSEE ETHICS COMMISSION**

The Act created an independent Ethics Commission. Among its many mandates, the Commission has the responsibility to:

- Promulgate rules and regulations (pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act) to implement the provisions of the Act;
- Recommend "Guiding Principles of Ethical Conduct" for the General Assembly, the Executive agencies, lobbyists, and employers of lobbyists;
- Receive complaints and conduct investigations, in conjunction with the Tennessee Attorney General's office;
- Compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents as needed to conduct its investigations;
- Conduct an annual ethics course for the Executive branch, the General Assembly, and lobbyists;
- Provide an ethics manual for lobbyists and employers of lobbyists with lobbyists being required to deliver a copy of the manual to each new employer of a lobbyist and verify such delivery on the Lobbyist Registration Statement, and with the employer of the lobbyist, on its initial Lobbyist Registration Statement, being required to verify receipt of the manual;

- Collect and disseminate Disclosure of Interest Statements for the Legislature, Governor, Governor's Cabinet, the Constitutional Officers, other State officials, local elected officials and candidates and appointees to such positions; and
- Provide public access, to the extent financially and technologically practical, to the documents and forms filed with the Commission.

The Commission is composed of six members: two appointed by the Governor; two appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and two appointed by the Speaker of the Senate. Each appointing authority must appoint one Republican and one Democrat. After initial staggered terms, members serve four-year terms. They may serve two consecutive terms. Biographies of the Commission members are provided in the Appendix to this Report. The Commission employs an Executive Director and staff to assist it meeting its statutory obligations.

The Commission's jurisdiction was effective October 1, 2006. Thus, the Commission does not have jurisdiction to investigate or take action on any activities which occurred prior to October 1, 2006. The Commission has held public meetings on the following dates:

- June 13, 2006
- July 27, 2006
- August 17, 2006
- September 25, 2006
- October 31, 2006
- December 12, 2006

### **THE COMMISSION'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE**

One of the most important tools for carrying out the Commission's mandate is to have an up-to-date website to (1) educate the public about the Commission; (2) provide news and other important information to the public and regulated communities; (3) provide notice of Commission meetings and agenda; (4) provide an on-line tool for registering or filing electronically; and (5) permit the public to view documents and registrations filed with or issued by the Commission.

To further this end, the Commission, with the assistance of the Secretary of State's Office, developed a website which includes the following information:

1. A lobbyist registration portal by which lobbyists register and amend their registrations electronically.
2. A "forms" section where employers of lobbyists, members of the General Assembly, State and local elected officials, other State officials, and candidates and appointees to these positions can download the forms and instructions which the Act requires them to file.
3. A section where the public can see current year lobbyist and employer of lobbyist registration information.
4. A section where the public can view invitations sent by lobbyists and employers of lobbyists to all members of the General Assembly.
5. Advisory Opinions issued by the Commission.

6. The Act and Rules issued by the Commission.
7. News from the Commission which is updated frequently.
8. Documents prepared by the Commission such as the Manual for Lobbyists and Employers of Lobbyists.
9. Biographies of the Commission members.
10. Certain Disclosure of Interest Statements.
11. Commission meeting Notices and Agendas.

In addition, the Commission maintains a separate e-mail address ([ethics.counsel@state.tn.us](mailto:ethics.counsel@state.tn.us)), which it routinely monitors, whereby any individual can pose a question to the Commission and receive a response. This e-mail address and the Commission's telephone number appear on its website.

## **LOBBYISTS AND EMPLOYERS OF LOBBYISTS:**

Lobbying is an integral part of our nation's democratic process and is a constitutionally guaranteed right. Government officials are continuously making public policy decisions that affect the vital interest of individuals, corporations, labor organizations, religious groups, charitable institutions and other entities. Public officials need to receive factual information from affected interests and also need to know such parties' views in order to make informed policy judgments. Individuals and entities have the right to seek to persuade public officials to take positions beneficial to them. In the marketplace of ideas, a wide range of viewpoints will be aired. In exercising their rights to influence public policy, organizations and interests often choose to employ lobbyists, and today, thousands of men and women are engaged in the profession and represent virtually every type of interest. To help preserve and advance public trust and confidence in our democratic institutions and the public policy advocacy process, lobbyists and their employers have a duty to conduct themselves ethically when dealing with government officials.

### **1. REGISTRATION**

#### **A. LOBBYISTS**

Effective October 1, 2006, lobbyist registration moved from the Registry of Election Finance to the Commission. T.C.A. § 3-6-301(17) requires that: "[n]ot later than seven days after becoming a lobbyist, the lobbyist shall register electronically with the ethics commission, and the lobbyist shall register each year thereafter if the lobbyist continues to engage in lobbying."

The registration year for lobbyists runs from **October 1 through September 30**.

The Act requires that the lobbyist's registration information include:

- His or her full contact information;
- A current photographic portrait, which must be submitted to the Commission within thirty (30) calendar days after registration;
- Identifying information concerning the lobbyist's employers;

- Verification of delivery of the Commission's manual for lobbyists and employers of lobbyists; and
- A registration fee of **\$150 per employer** of the lobbyist.

The Commission, with the assistance of its electronic portal vendor, developed an on-line registration system for lobbyists whereby lobbyists are required to register over the web and pay their registration fee by credit card. As of January 29, 2007, 460 lobbyists have registered with the Commission.

## B. EMPLOYERS OF LOBBYISTS

On October 1, 2006, employers of lobbyists having existing employment relationships with lobbyists had seven (7) days within which to register with the Commission. Prior to October 1, 2006, there was no registration requirement for employers of lobbyists. Employers of lobbyists register by electronically downloading the registration form from the Commission's website, <http://state.tn.us/sos/tec/>, and either delivering or mailing the required form and fee directly to the Commission.

T.C.A. § 3-6-302(b)(1) requires the employer's registration statement to include:

- The employer's name, address, telephone number and e-mail address<sup>1</sup>;
- The name and contact information of each lobbyist authorized to represent the employer; and
- The employer's verification that it has received delivery from the lobbyist of the Commission's Manual for Lobbyists and Employers of Lobbyists.

The Act further requires that registration statements be updated throughout the registration year if any event or circumstance occurs which renders the statement inaccurate or incomplete. This update must be completed within seven (7) days after the change in circumstances.

Thus, if an employer retains a new or additional lobbyist, the employer has seven (7) days to submit a new registration form and pay the annual registration fee.

As of January 29, 2007, 561 employers of lobbyists have registered with the Commission.

## 2. TRAINING

As part of the registration process, lobbyists are required to certify that they have provided a copy of the Commission's Manual for Lobbyists and Employers of Lobbyists ("Manual") to their employers. To this end, the Commission developed and posted the Manual on its website, prior to October 1, 2006.

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<sup>1</sup> If the employer is a corporation or association, the names of the individuals performing the functions of chief executive officer and chief financial officer must also be listed.



The Act requires all registered lobbyists take annually an ethics training course offered by the Commission at a time when the Legislature is not in session. The Commission has scheduled such lobbyist ethics training for specific dates in June 2007.

### **3. EMPLOYER DISCLOSURE REPORTS**

Under the Act, each employer of a lobbyist must file an Employer Disclosure Report for the preceding six-month period. The first report will be due **May 15, 2007**, for the six-month period ending March 31. The second report will be due **November 14, 2007** for the six-month period ending September 30. In 2007, and until further notice, the forms for the reports may be downloaded from the Commission's website (<http://state.tn.us/sos/tec/>) and either hand delivered or sent to the Commission's address.

The Employer Disclosure Report consists of three (3) parts:

Part 1: The aggregate total amount of lobbyist compensation paid by the employer. The Report is to be in monetary ranges from less than \$10,000 to \$400,000 or more.

Part 2: The aggregate total amount of employer expenditures incurred for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action through public opinion or grassroots action, excluding lobbyist compensation. (Expenditures related to lobbyist compensation should instead be disclosed in the first part of the Report.) The Report must also be filed in ranges from less than \$10,000 to \$400,000 or more, in the same manner as Part 1 of the Report; and

Part 3: The aggregate total amount of expenditures for events paid for by the employer to which the entire membership of the Tennessee General Assembly was invited.

*PURSUANT TO T.C.A. §§3-6-302(f) AND 3-6-303(b), ALL LOBBYIST AND EMPLOYER OF LOBBYIST REGISTRATION STATEMENTS AND EMPLOYER DISCLOSURE REPORTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE.*

### **4. AUDITING ACTIVITIES**

The Act requires the Commission to perform audits on at least two percent (2%) of lobbyist registrations and reports.

The Commission has randomly reviewed the names of employers of lobbyists on whose behalf a lobbyist registered with the Registry of Election Finance in 2006, but had not registered with the Commission. In each case, the employer had not yet retained, or was not planning on retaining a lobbyist for the 2007 legislative session and, thus the lack of a 2007 registration was justified.

### **TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH**

Part of the Commission's success in implementing the new lobbyist and employer of lobbyist registration process was due to the Commission's mailing a letter, in late September 2006, before its statutory jurisdiction began, to every lobbyist who had registered with the Registry of Election Finance in 2006 and to every employer, as provided by the lobbyists in their registrations with the Registry, reminding them of their

new filing obligations. In addition, the Commission worked closely with the Tennessee Lobbyists Association to educate the lobbying community about the new registration requirements.

Pursuant to the Act, the Commission must conduct various ethics training for members of the General Assembly, State officials, and lobbyists. In addition, and in furtherance of its public mission, the Commission is obligated to conduct education programs and outreach whenever possible.

The members of the General Assembly must attend annually an ethics training class “when the Legislature is in session.” The Commission provided this training on January 19, 2007.

Lobbyists must attend annually ethics training on days “when the Legislature is not in session.” Employers of lobbyists may attend but are not required to do so. The Commission has scheduled three (3) sessions in June 2007.

By February 1, 2007, all executive agencies must provide the Commission a list of their senior managers for purposes of scheduling ethics training. The Commission has corresponded with all such agency heads and is currently compiling a list of required attendees and scheduling training which is anticipated to take place in the Spring 2007.

In January 2007, to further its goal to educate State officials and employees, the Commission issued a one page pamphlet titled “10 Items Every State Employee Should Know About the Tennessee Ethics Commission.” This was included in State employees’ pay stubs.

The Commission applied for and received authorization from the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) and Specialization to provide CLE credit for its training program.

In addition to training required by the Act, the Commission firmly believes that as part of its obligation to the public, it must perform education and outreach whenever possible. To date, the following ethics training has taken place or has been scheduled:

9/6/06 Tennessee Bar Association

10/25 Department of Economic Development

11/1 Vanderbilt University public policy class

11/30 Continuing Legal Education for State of Tennessee lawyers

11/30 County Mayors Association

12/8 American Society for Public Administration

12/13 General Assembly new members

1/9/07 TN Lobbyists Association  
1/11 Association of Government Accountants  
1/19 Senate/House  
1/25 Legislative liaisons  
1/26 TN Society of Association Executives  
1/29 Institute of Internal Auditors  
2/2 Treasury/Comptroller  
2/6 TN Chamber of Commerce  
2/8 Tennessee Press Association  
2/23 TN Municipal Attorneys Association

#### **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST STATEMENTS:**

The Act brought many significant changes to the process by which certain State and local elected officials file their public disclosure forms.

#### **1. MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY, GOVERNOR, GOVERNOR'S CABINET, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND CANDIDATES AND APPOINTEES TO THOSE POSITIONS**

This group is required to submit a lengthy Disclosure of Interest Statement no later than April 15, 2007. Candidates have 30 days from the last day they qualify for election by which to file. Appointees have 30 days from the date of their appointment to file. These Disclosure Statements must, by law, be posted on the Commission's website. To this end, the Commission has posted on its website the Disclosure Statements of the candidates for the special elections in Senate District 30 and House District 92. Appointees' forms are posted as they are received.

#### **2. OTHER STATE OFFICIALS**

Approximately 100 State officials are required to submit a short version Disclosure of Interest Statement with the Commission no later than January 31, 2007. This group includes Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court, Judges of the Courts of Appeals, District Attorneys, Public Defenders, the University of Tennessee campus Presidents and those of the colleges and universities administered by the Board of Regents, members of the Board of Probation and Parole, the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the Registry of Election Finance, and the Tennessee Ethics Commission. These disclosures will be available for public inspection.

### **3. LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Pursuant to the Act, all local elected officials, and candidates and appointees to those positions, must submit a short version financial disclosure form no later than January 31. Candidates have 30 days from the last day they qualify for election by which to file; appointees have 30 days from the date of their appointment by which to file. Prior to the Act, local officials were required to file the Disclosure Statement with their County Election Commission. In requiring that the forms be filed with the Ethics Commission, the Legislature sought to make certain that the filing requirements were consistently being adhered to across the State and that there be a centralized repository for those forms.

Meeting this mandate was no small feat for the Commission. In December 2006, the Commission notified the County Election Commissioners in all of the State's 95 counties requesting lists of the names and addresses of all local elected officials. The Commission received over 6000 names and addresses which were entered into the Commission's database, and letters were sent to all 6000 officials. The Commission is collecting all such forms and processing the information into a database to organize the information and ease public access.

#### **ADVISORY OPINIONS**

As of December 2006, the Commission issued 3 formal advisory opinions as follows:

Advisory Opinion No. 06-01: Application of the lobbyist registration requirement to the timing of when a lobbyist must file a registration statement.

Advisory Opinion No. 06-02: Application of the lobbying registration requirement to attorneys.

Advisory Opinion No. 06-03: Application of the lobbying registration requirement to those who are engaged solely in monitoring activities.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

The Act requires the Commission to prepare and recommend for the Legislative and Executive branches "Guiding Principles of Ethical Conduct" which they may consider adopting. A draft will be presented to the Commission for its review at a future public meeting.

All municipalities must file a Code of Conduct with the Commission by July 1, 2007. While the Commission has no jurisdiction to enforce this provision, the Commission has worked closely with both the Municipal Technical Assistance Service ("MTAS") and the County Technical Assistance Service ("CTAS") to assist the localities with complying with the July 1 deadline.

## **APPENDIX**

### **1. COMMISSION MEMBERS**

#### **Thomas J. Garland, Chair**

Thomas J. Garland was born in Kingsport, TN in 1934. He was educated in the Kingsport and Oak Ridge school systems and served in the United States Air Force from 1952-56. He graduated from East Tennessee State University with a B.A. degree in 1959 and received the Outstanding Alumnus Award in 1973. His careers in business, education, and government include: Chairman of the Board of Commerce Union Bank (now Bank of America), Greeneville, TN; Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents; Interim President of Tusculum College, where he serves as a member of the Board of Trustees and is the immediate past Chairman of the Board. He holds an Honorary Doctor of Law and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by Tusculum College. He served in the Tennessee Senate from 1964-85, seventeen years as Senate Minority Leader. He also served on numerous civic and corporate boards and currently serves as senior advisor to the Niswonger Foundation, Chairman of the Tusculum Institute for Public Leadership and Policy, and is a director of Atmos Energy Corporation.

Mr. Garland was appointed by the Governor as a Republican representative.

#### **R. Larry Brown**

R. Larry Brown is Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer for FedEx Express. In this position, he is responsible for all strategic aspects of Human Resources for a worldwide work force of over 138,000 employees operating in 210 countries.

The Jackson, Tennessee native earned his bachelor's degree from Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Memphis School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review Staff, the Moot Court Board, and the National Moot Court Team.

Mr. Brown joined FedEx in 1987 as Managing Director, Litigation, after serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Western District of Tennessee for five years and being a supervisory trial attorney for the EEOC for two years.

He was also a Reginald Heber Smith (REGGIE) Fellow, and Managing Attorney with Memphis Area Legal Services.

Mr. Brown is Chairman of the Board of Partners in Public Education (PIPE), a board member of the Youth Education Through Sports (YES) Foundation, and Co-chair of the Memphis mentoring Partnership.

He belongs to the National Bar Association (NBA), and is a past president of the Ben F. Jones (Memphis) Chapter of the NBA. Mr. Brown also holds memberships in Omega Psi Phi, and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternities, and is past national President of Pro Duffers, USA. He

has received the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Foundation Award of Excellence, and the Pi Beta Sigma African American Image Award. Mr. Brown is a two-time recipient of the Federal Express Five Star Award.

Mr. Brown was appointed by the Speaker of the Senate as a Democrat representative.

### **Donald J. Hall**

Donald J. Hall is a celebrated teacher, who has served on the Vanderbilt Law School faculty since 1970. Professor Hall is the inaugural holder of the Vanderbilt University Chair for Teaching Excellence. His teaching and scholarship focus on criminal law and procedure, particularly victims' rights in the criminal process. His casebook on criminal procedure is widely used in American law schools. Active in Tennessee criminal justice issues, he has served as co-chair of the Tennessee Commission on Gender Fairness, was the reporter for the state's pattern jury instructions in criminal cases, and, while a member of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission, helped to shape the state's revised penal code. Professor Hall is currently serving as the appointee of Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen on the state Ethics Commission, having previously served as a member of the Governor's Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and on the Governor's Task Force on the Use of Enhancement Factors in Criminal Sentencing.

Mr. Hall was appointed by the Governor as a Democratic representative.

### **Linda W. Knight**

Linda Whitlow Knight is a native of Jackson, Tennessee, where she attended public schools. After attending Sweet Briar College for two years, Linda received her B.A., *cum laude*, from Vanderbilt University, where she majored in Political Science and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1976, she graduated *magna cum laude* from Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama. She served on the Law Review and the Moot Court Board, and was elected to Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

After practicing in Birmingham for four years, Linda moved to Nashville in 1980. She served as law clerk to former Supreme Court Justice Frank F. Drowota, and then entered private practice. She has been with Gullett, Sanford, Robinson & Martin, PLLC and its predecessor, Martin & Cochran, since 1982. Her practice concentrates on insolvency and commercial law and litigation. She belongs to the American, Tennessee and Nashville Bar Associations and the Tennessee and Nashville Lawyers' Associations for Women. She has served as President, and four terms as Treasurer, of TLAW and as a Board member of LAW. She was Secretary of the Nashville Bar Association in 2006, and has served on and chaired several committees. Linda is a Hearing Officer for the Board of Professional Responsibility and is on the Board of the Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society and the Bench-Bar Relations Committee of the Tennessee Judicial Conference.

Linda was one of the initial members of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, serving from 1998 to 2004, and remains a member of the Board of the Tennessee

Women's Economic Council Foundation, Inc. She has been a Board member of the Nashville Women's Political Caucus.

Ms. Knight was appointed by the Speaker of the House as a Republican representative.

### **Dianne F. Neal**

Dianne Neal has been a lawyer in State government since 1988, beginning as counsel in the Grubbs prison litigation case which led to her appointment as General Counsel to the Tennessee Department of Correction. Subsequently, Dianne became Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Ned McWherter. At the end of the McWherter administration, Dianne was named General Counsel to the Public Service Commission and remained as General Counsel to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority until 1997. In this role, Dianne appeared on behalf of the Authority before trial and appellate courts as well as legislative committees. She established the administrative procedures for the Authority to apply pursuant to the 1996 deregulation of telecommunications enacted by the General Assembly.

Dianne left state government to become President and CEO of the Cumberland Science Museum, now Adventure Science Center, leading an eighteen-month transition to streamline operations and foster board development.

Throughout her career, Dianne has served on the boards of civic organizations, locally and nationally. Dianne served on the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission for six years, two as Chairman. Dianne is a founding member of the Nashville Sports Council, one year as Chair, and continues to participate on the Executive Committee. In 2005, Dianne was appointed to the Tennessee State Museum Foundation Board by Governor Bredesen.

Additionally, Dianne sits on the boards of the Belle Meade Plantation, the Habitat for Humanity and the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation. From 1998 to 2002, Dianne was a member of the President's Circle of the National Academy of Sciences.

A graduate of the Vanderbilt University School of Law, Dianne received a B.A. from Baylor University and an M.A. from Tulane University.

### **Benjamin S. Purser, Jr.**

Mr. Purser is a retired FBI executive with over twenty-nine years of diverse and unique government experiences and eight years in the corporate world identifying risks and providing solutions to those risks. Mr. Purser is currently Vice President of Ethics and Chief Compliance Officer at America Service Group Inc., a health care company headquartered in Brentwood, TN. In this role, Mr. Purser is the senior executive of the company responsible for the Ethics & Compliance programs of this publicly traded company employing 5700+ employees across the United States.

Mr. Purser supervised all FBI operations and personnel in Middle Tennessee from 1981 until late 1998. He was appointed to a Management Advisory Committee by the Director

of the FBI. The committee of nine FBI executives provided Counsel to the Director regarding all FBI policies, procedures, and operations. He supervised an extremely sensitive and complex public corruption investigation focusing on wrongdoing by State officials (code name Rocky Top). He managed a national health care fraud investigation for a three year period.

Mr. Purser is originally from Dayton, TN. He attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and graduated from William Jennings Bryan College in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

During his time in Middle Tennessee, Mr. Purser served on the boards of several non-profit organizations; currently he serves on the board of the YMCA and is a member of the Nashville Rotary Club.

Mr. Purser was appointed by the Speaker of the Senate as a Republican representative.

## **2. COMMISSION STAFF**

### **Bruce A. Androphy, Executive Director**

Mr. Androphy is the Executive Director of the newly created and independent Tennessee Ethics Commission which was created by the Ethics Reform Act of 2006 in response to the “Tennessee Waltz” scandal and which commenced operations on October 1, 2006. He was hired by the Commission after a national recruitment search that resulted in the Commission receiving over 160 applicants. He previously served as General Counsel with the New York State Ethics Commission, and had been with the New York Commission since 1989. In that position, he had conducted hundreds of ethics training sessions for State officers and employees, and supervised the Commission’s legal staff. As Executive Director of the Tennessee Ethics Commission, he oversees the Commission staff, is responsible for the Commission’s operations and mission, and advises the Commission members. A *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, he received his law degree with Honors from George Washington University National Law Center in Washington, D.C. Prior to working for the Commission, he held various other positions in the public sector including serving as a prosecutor in the Office of Professional Discipline and as an assistant district attorney in the Chemung County District Attorney’s Office.

### **Rebecca Bradley, Executive Assistant**

A Nashville native, Ms. Bradley has more than 25 years of administrative and office management experience. Ms. Bradley has worked in the private sector and Metro Nashville for more than ten years and fifteen years with the State of Tennessee. She served in the Department of Health, State Supreme Court, Tennessee State Senate, and the Department of Commerce and Insurance before joining the Ethics Commission.



### **Anne F. Turner, General Counsel**

Ms. Turner received her Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Houston, where she was active in several Honors Societies. Ms. Turner then worked her way through the South Texas College of Law, Texas A&M University, as a medic on an ambulance. After receiving her law degree and several academic honors, Ms. Turner worked for several years in private practice until being recruited to work as an Assistant General Counsel with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services. Ms. Turner was then recruited by the Tennessee Department of Human Services to significantly expand and implement sweeping reforms to the state's regulation of adult care and child care. Ms. Turner served in this capacity for 6 years prior to joining the Tennessee Ethics Commission.

### **Mona Jean-Baptiste, Associate Counsel**

A native of New York City and a graduate of Dartmouth College, Ms. Jean-Baptiste came to Nashville to pursue a Juris Doctorate at Vanderbilt University Law School. She received her Juris Doctorate in May 2006 and was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in November of the same year.

### **Linda Creasman, Administrative Assistant**

Linda Creasman is a native of Joelton, Tennessee. She started working for the State of Tennessee in 1983 for the Department of Human Services. She took a position with the Department of General Services and was promoted several times within the Department. She joined the Secretary of State's Office in 2001.

### **Judy Bennett, Administrative Assistant**

Ms. Bennett is a resident of Clarksville and has worked for the Secretary of State's Office for 6 years, first in General Services, and then in the Summons Division and now the Ethics Commission. She is a member of the Native Cultural Circle of Clarksville, TN, a local Native American organization, and is a budding wire sculptor, using copper, sterling silver as well as brass.

### **Mindy Arrington, Law Intern**

Melinda R. Arrington is a legal intern for the Tennessee Ethics Commission. She is currently in her last year of law school at the Nashville School of Law and hopes to become an attorney with the Commission after graduation. Melinda obtained her B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Auburn University and her M.S. in Mass Communication from Middle Tennessee State University. Currently, she lives in Leiper's Fork with her husband and two sons and enjoys working on community projects for Hillsboro School and the Hillsboro United Methodist Church.